

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES JAPANESE OCCUPATION 5 CENT -- DOES IT EXIST?

by Francis G. Sanders, with cooperation from Hitoshi Kozono and Keiji (Keiho) Tanaka of Fukuoka, Japan

(Reprinted from July, 1975 *NI Bulletin*)

The 5 Cent Netherlands East Indies Japanese Occupation piece is on most all want lists that I receive from collectors...and has been for several years. I have personally sought this coin for over 10 years myself without success. Until the 1970's I was beginning to believe that it simply did not exist by simple virtue that no one could produce a specimen, or knew of the existence of a specimen, at least here in the U.S.A.

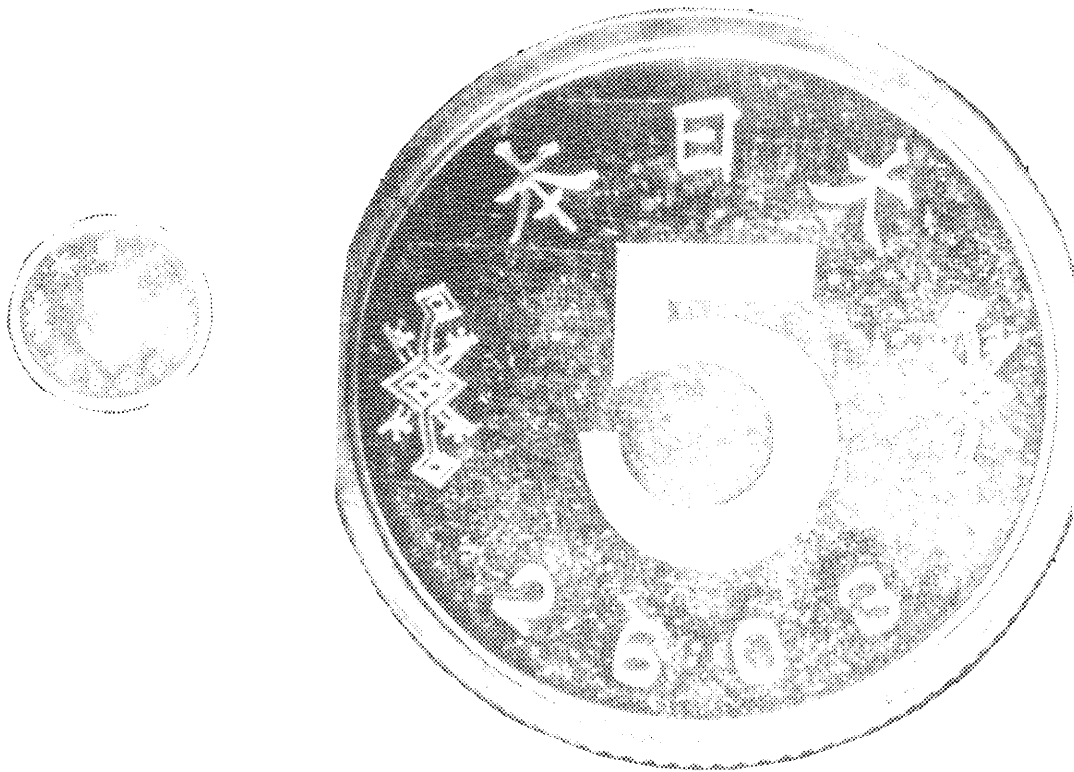
In the early 1970's at a Hans M. F. Schulman auction in New York City, a silver pattern of the coin was auctioned off for a record figure of \$1800.00. I consider it a record figure, especially for a coin with such an obscure history as this one. I tried in vain to learn the name of the winning bidder, without success. Thus, other information on this piece is unknown, other than that it was a pattern and that it did sell. This silver pattern is unknown in Japan, although that does not mean that as such it does not exist.

Over the years I have corresponded with several collectors, as well as dealers, about the coin to no avail. Only recently have I learned of the coin.

My thanks go out to Mr. Hitoshi Kozono for his time and patience and the leg work in obtaining what is written here about the coin. Also, my thanks go out to Mr. Keiji (Keiho) Tanaka for the photographs below of his 5 Cent coin.



(Actual size and enlarged obverse, 5 Cents, 2603)



(Actual size and enlarged reverse, 5 Cents, 2603)

Possibly there are other specimens of this coin, but to my knowledge this is the only specimen known.

Mr. Tanaka's 5 Cent (not Sen as some books state) is 19mm in diameter and weighs .085 G. and is struck in aluminum. The number originally struck is unknown, but as with the other coins in the series, one would think that an ample number were struck.

All of the Netherlands East Indies coins of the Japanese Occupation were struck in Japan from August 1943 to March 1944. The 1 Cent and 10 Cents of the series are both known in two dates, 2603 and 2604 (1943 and 1944 A.D.). The information I have received from Japan, however, states that most of the coins were never delivered to the East Indies as transportation by sea was very dangerous and unsure at the time. The allied powers at the time had no doubt gained seniority of the sea over this particular route. Knowledge of the coins actually arriving in the Netherlands East Indies is not known at this time. As well, the actual release of any of the coins into circulation is not known.

Japanese sources state that after the war all remaining coins of the Netherlands East Indies Japanese Occupation which were still in Japan were melted down for scrap. This may well account for the scarcity of all denominations in the series.

The 1 Cent is known in both dates, struck in aluminum. Grades known are from Very Fine (VF) to Uncirculated (UNC) and it is considered a scarce coin.

The 5 Cents is known only in the one date - 2603 (1943). So far only this one is known, so it is quite possibly a unique coin.

The 10 Cents is known in both dates and is struck in Tin. It is known in grades from Fine (F) to Uncirculated (UNC), also being scarce.

A rarity scale for the three issues would be like this:

1 Cent:	Very Scarce. When offered commands a high premium.
5 Cents	One Known. Possibly unique.
10 Cents:	Scarce. When offered commands a good price.

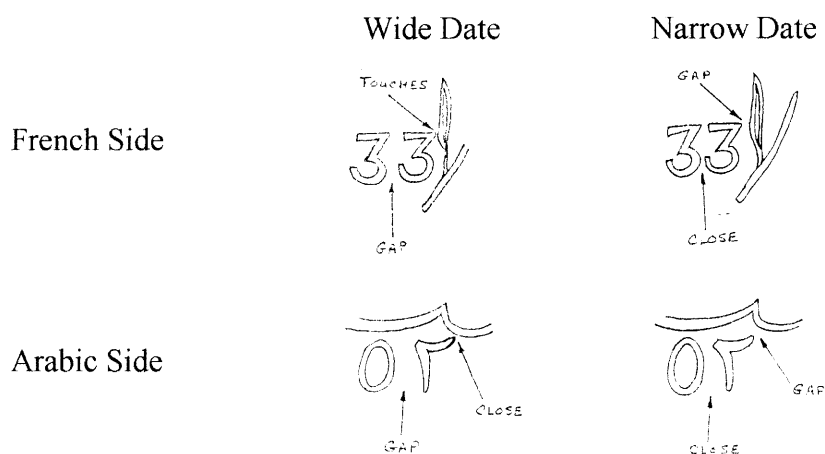
As a dealer in Japanese coins, I have personally handled no less than 15 pieces of the 10 Cents coin and only 3 pieces of the 1 Cent coin. Until the above information became available, I had thought that the 5 Cents coin possibly did not exist.

One final bit of information - the 1 Cent is also known with Mihoh (specimen) characters counterstamped in the field of the coin. Quite possibly, others of this type exist.

NEW TUNISIA VARIETY

Mike Davis, Piqua, Ohio, NI #2392

This variety was found on a Tunisia 10 Centimes, 1933, KM #259. There seems to be a wide date and narrow date type, but the oddity is that this date spacing is not only on the French side of the coin, but parallels itself on the Arabic side.



It appears that the last digit of the dates, both obverse and reverse, is farther from the third digit on the wide date type, and closer to the third digit on the narrow type. I do not know which of the types is the normal spacing.

BOOK NEWS & REVIEWS

Las Emisiones Provinciales de Valdivia: 1822-1844 by *Carlos Jara M.* Publication due in May 2003 by Editorial Medinensis, LOM Ediciones Santiago (printer). Hardcover, 230 pp, profusely illustrated with black and white photos. When available the cost is \$60 US plus shipping from Miami or Santiago. For orders please contact the author at clejara@yahoo.com or Alan Luedeking at alan@ludeca.com or Alan Luedeking, 1425 N.W. 88th Avenue, Miami, FL 33172, USA.

Obsidional and necessity issues of Chile were first documented by the great José Toribio Medina in two different works, his 1902 "Las Monedas Chilenas" and his 1919 "Las Monedas Obsidionales Chilenas". However, his extensive research did not present enough documentation to fully understand the significance and historical context of some of these issues, among which two stand out for their importance: the obsidional 1 Peso cast coins of Chiloé (about which Mr. Jara published a monograph in 2000) and the Valdivia issues dated 1822. It is no coincidence that these have remained obscure until recently, not only as concerns their history but also as regards their very status as genuine or counterfeit.

His new, intensively researched book on the issues of Valdivia presents extensive original documentation, heretofore unpublished, which not only reveals the true nature of these emissions, but also the correct interpretation and meaning of the enigmatic APDEVA monogram counterstamp that is to be found on some of the coins. Parallel to this, an unknown emission of necessity paper money is documented, which eventually evolved into the well known issues of the 1840's (Pick # S-101 and S-102). This book, which is as groundbreaking as Jara's previous work on the Coquimbo mint, is now available in a limited edition of only 60 numbered examples, in hard covers, thoroughly illustrated, with pictorial dust jacket. It is in Spanish. Orders may be addressed directly to the author at [<clejara@yahoo.com>](mailto:clejara@yahoo.com). It is anticipated that the books will be shipped from Miami, probably near the end of May.

Reviewed by Alan Leudeking

Dime Quotes and other money – The purchasing power of a dime the year I was born, from an ocean trip around the world. *Globegadder's Diary*, Ralph Parlette, Parlette, Parlette-Padget Company, Chicago. 1927.

Korea – We came back to the boat loaded down with Korean hats...and the big, bulky brass-trimmed chests once used for cash of the country. Hence the name "cashbox". The Koreans used to keep their strings of hole-money in these chests, as they couldn't carry it in their pocket. It used to take 1,000 pieces of this hole-money to make 50 cents of our money. Even worse in China. The horse that pulled the load of truck to market had a harder job pulling the load of money back home.

Japan – The rickshaw man can trot 30 to 40 miles a day, and is glad to pull me around for a yen, 50 cents, an hour.

(Submitted by Roger deWardt Lane)

MEMBER NOTICE PAGE

William F. Orne, 4559 Juniper Place, Evans, GA 30809-4534, e-mail: wforne@knology.net: Wanted to buy or trade for: Argentina 1¢ 1942 KM-12, 2¢ 1942 KM-13 & 5¢ 1942 KM-15. Would like to have these coins in VF or better. Have coins, tokens and paper currency to trade.

Fred Knust, Box 2, Mason, MI 48854, USA, e-mail: KNUSTPA@YAHOO.COM
For Sale Item: **The John A. Snell Collection of Chinese Coins of the Twentieth Century.** Dr. Snell served as a Methodist Missionary in Soochow, China. His "Chinese Copper Coins of the Twentieth Century" appeared in *The Numismatist* of June 1932. He is cited by Woodward in the Kiangsu article of *The Minted Ten-Cash Coins of China*. The collection consists of 474 different coppers of the late Empire and early Republic. For a 14 page list of these by Mandel and Woodward numbers with Krause-Mishler values, send an addressed envelope with \$1 for postage to Fred Knust.

John Stribhei, P. O. Box 20845, Hot Springs, AR 71903, USA: German Notgeld, Metals and Large Tokens. Large Interesting Selection Available. Write for List.

Morris Lawing, P. O. Box 9494, Charlotte, NC 28299: Send for my free illustrated (in color) world banknote catalog. e-mail: mlawing@carolina.rr.com.

Tom Galway, Gallery Numis, P. O. Box 620421, Middleton, WI 53562-0421, e-mail: gallery14@charter.net: Write for a free copy of my List No. 20. There are large listings of Chinese Cast Coinage, Chinese Struck Coinage, France, Great Britain, India, and Great Britain 18th Century Tokens listed by Dalton and Hamer numbers. Coinages from over 100 countries are included.

Paul Harris, P. O. Box 1649, Agoura Hills, CA 91376, e-mail: peso@att.net, phone 818-458-5038: I am studying the early cob coinage of Colonial Mexico, the 8 reales of Felipe II and Felipe III. Please let me know what coins or photos you have for sale. I also invite you to contact me if you simply have information you would like to share. I am also seeking rare Mexican numismatic literature & auction catalogs (e.g. Cayon). *All Dealings Strictly Confidential*.

Dime Quotes and other money – The purchasing power of a dime the year I was born, from an ocean trip around the world. *Globegadder's Diary*, Ralph Parlette, Parlette-Padget Company, Chicago. 1927.

Manila, Philippines – You get splendid straw hats... The store has more nearly fixed prices – 10, 20, 30 or 40 pesos, half that in "gold", which means U.S. money. You can get a splendid straw hat for \$1.

Hong Kong – The oriental idea of shopping as so well exemplified in Hong Kong is for the seller to ask ten times the value and the buyer to offer a tenth of the value. Then they duel till one or the other goes down... The skilled artisans get 10 to 15 cents a day of our money, the unskilled getting the half of that!

(Submitted by Roger deWardt Lane)